

VZCZCXRO2702
RR RUEHNZ
DE RUEHWL #0540 2070548
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 260548Z JUL 07
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4503
INFO RUEHSV/AMEMBASSY SUVA 0600
RUEHNZ/AMCONSUL AUCKLAND 1407
RHMFIUU/DTRA ALEX WASHINGTON DC//CT//
RHMFIUU/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 000540

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

PASS TO DEBBIE BURTT (NNSA), CAROLINE TRUJILLO (LANL), VICKI MCCOY (NNSA), DARLENE ROBERTS (NNSA), GEORGE VERRY (NNSA), BETTY SHORTER (NNSA)

E.O. 12985: N/A
TAGS: [OTRA](#) [SENV](#) [CW](#) [NZ](#)

SUBJECT: COOK ISLANDS COUNTRY CLEARANCE FOR VANIA K. JORDANOVA, REINER H. FRIEDEL, GEOFFREY D. REEVES, 5-13 AUGUST 2207

REF: STATE 102582

11. (SBU) Embassy welcomes and grants country clearance to NNSA Vania K. Jordanova, Reiner H. Friedel and Geoffrey D. Reeves to travel to Rarotonga, Cook Islands, from 5-13 August 2007. The purpose of this visit is to attend the Rarotonga Energetic Particle Workshop.

12. (U) Embassy understands that country clearance is the only assistance required.

13. (SBU) Embassy point of contact is Political Officer Gary Rex. Contact details are as follows:

Office: 644-462-6043
Fax: 644-472-9804
Cell: 027-451-2538
E-mail: rexgl@state.gov

Security Assessment

14. (SBU) The Cook Islands is a Parliamentary democracy in free association with New Zealand, on which they rely for defense and assistance in meeting low-level security threats. The Embassy is not aware of any specific threats to U.S. facilities or personnel at this time in the Cook Islands. However, in light of the worldwide security alert all visitors should heighten their security awareness and report any unusual incidents to the Regional Security Office at the Embassy in Wellington, New Zealand (telephone (64)(4)462-6000, 24 hours/day).

15. (SBU) Following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the U.S. and the 2002 and 2005 terrorist bombings in Bali, there has been concern that terrorists might seek to take advantage of the low level of security maintained in small island states such as the Cook Islands in order to target tourists in previously safe destinations. New Zealand has worked with the Cook Islands to improve airport security in response to this possibility.

16. (U) As a result of recent military action in Iraq, there is a potential for retaliatory actions to be taken against U.S. citizens and interests throughout the world. Public demonstrations carry the potential for precipitating violence directed at American citizens.

17. (SBU) U.S. Government facilities worldwide remain at a heightened state of alert and some have drawn down their dependents and/or personnel. These facilities may temporarily close or suspend

public services from time to time for security reasons. In those instances, U.S. embassies and consulates will make every effort to provide emergency services to American citizens. Monitor the local news and maintain contact with the nearest American Embassy or U.S. Consulate.

18. (U) Crime: Appropriate common sense precautions should be taken, especially at night, to avoid becoming a target of opportunity.

19. (U) Weather: Severe cyclones present a threat during the hurricane season; however, this is generally only from November to March.

KEEGAN